

on the principles and highest standards of arts-education and community service created in 1975 by its founder, Naomi Klein.

IN RECOGNITION OF BROOKLYN
CHINESE-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION'S
FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF AVENUE U
SENIOR AND COMMUNITY CENTER

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association's Avenue U Senior and Community Center on its fourth anniversary.

Gillian Anderson once said "Be of service * * there is nothing that harvests more of a feeling of empowerment than being of service to someone in need." This need is met every day for the members of the Avenue U Senior and Community Center.

In just 4 years, the Center has enrolled more than 1,600 members, serving more than 150 senior members daily. It offers daily meals, social service information, referral and case management, medical and health-related workshops and screenings, monthly birthday celebrations, ESL, citizenship, music, dancing and arts and crafts classes, field trips, as well as other recreational activities.

The Center additionally is involved in coordinating community events such as town hall meetings, assisting senior members with their meeting housing needs, promoting voter registration and educating the community about the importance of exercising their voting rights.

President John F. Kennedy once said the definition of happiness is "the full use of your powers along lines of excellence." Members of the Avenue U Senior and Community Center understand this happiness and I wish them and members of the Brooklyn Chinese-American Association continued success and best wishes this anniversary.

SUPPORTING THE FULL FUNDING
OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DIS-
ABILITIES EDUCATION ACT

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4055, the IDEA Funding Act.

I am happy that this Congress has finally decided to vote on substantive legislation that puts our children first. Hopefully, this vote is an indication of this Congress' national commitment to our children in the upcoming reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA).

Over 25 years ago, Congress promised to pay 40 percent of the national average per pupil expenditure of all children with disabilities. However, the government has never funded more than 12.6 percent. This lack of funding has placed severe strains on local school district's budgets.

Today's vote provides the necessary financial resources to help our local school districts to provide a first rate education to students with disabilities as well as freeing up resources to be used for the education of other students.

Although it has taken 25 years for the Congress to seriously address this funding issue, the fact that there is a funding formula has made Congress accountable to providing these funds. Educators have been able to point out that Congressional funding for IDEA has fallen far short from what was promised to each disabled student. This link between program funding and the student provides Congress with an accurate measure of the amount of increased funding that is necessary to keep up with the inflationary increases in a student's education.

This fact should not be lost when we debate and vote on the reauthorization of ESEA later this year. There have been many bills introduced that would break the connection of Federal funding to each student by block granting these programs. The effect of creating block grants in such programs as title I will result in fewer poor children receiving the adequate funds to provide them a good education.

I ask my colleagues in the majority to remember the pressures that have caused Congress to vote on this bill today and how much its passage will positively impact the education of disabled children throughout the United States, I urge them to remember this when they vote on the reauthorization of ESEA.

IN HONOR OF "TERTULIAS DE
ANTAÑO" ("GET TOGETHER OF
YESTERDAY")

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I honor "Tertulias de Antaño" ("Get Together of Yesterday") for its contribution to the Cuban-American community of West New York.

"Tertulias de Antaño" came into existence 22 years ago because one woman, Lidia Gil-Ramos, who came to America in 1965 as a Cuban refugee, had the desire to "help make the elderly happy and help them take part in local life." She founded the program and volunteers her time as program coordinator.

"Tertulias de Antaño" has helped Cuban elderly within the Cuban-American community of West New York, New Jersey to escape the disconnect and loneliness often experienced by immigrant communities.

In describing the work of a small group of volunteers dedicated to helping the Cuban elderly, Gil-Ramos said: "We work for love, not for profit." "Tertulias de Antaño" does not receive any government funds—only private donations are accepted. However, this has not prevented the organization from achieving success. I attribute the success of this wonderful organization to the hard work and dedication of Lid Gil-Ramos and her equally dedicated staff of volunteers.

Today, it is my great pleasure to honor "Tertulias de Antaño" and everyone who has

helped integrate the Cuban elderly community into American society. I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring them as well.

TOWN OF HOTCHKISS CELEBRATES
100 YEARS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the Town of Hotchkiss on celebrating 100 years. On May 6, 2000, the 920 citizens have set the day aside for festivities and celebration. There will be a parade, contests for the kids and adults, food, prizes and more.

On March, 19, 1900, papers were filed to make Hotchkiss a legally incorporated Colorado municipality. On May 7, 1900, they received notice from the State of Colorado that the State had accepted the petition and charter for the Town of Hotchkiss, whose population at the time was less than 300. The new town was named after Enos Throop Hotchkiss who had led the first party of settlers into the valley in 1881. George and William Duke, Fred Simonds and Ed Hanson were the towns "speculators" or "subdivision developers." They owned many of the businesses in the town.

It is with this, Mr. Speaker, that I say thank you to the Town of Hotchkiss for their many contributions to the State of Colorado. I would like to wish the Town of Hotchkiss Happy 100th Birthday!

A TRIBUTE TO RABBI AMIEL
WOHL

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I express my great admiration for Rabbi Amiel Wohl, a remarkable spiritual leader and great American who this year retires from twenty-seven years of service to Temple Israel of New Rochelle.

A man of high principle, moving eloquence, and tireless energy, Rabbi Wohl has touched countless lives in Westchester County through his work at Temple Israel and his contributions to a variety of civic organizations.

Under Rabbi Wohl's leadership, Temple Israel has built on its already rich history and reinforced its reputation as a vibrant center of religious observance and civic activism. Rabbi Wohl's support for new programs and his introduction of additional opportunities for worship have enabled congregants to enrich their spiritual lives and achieve a closer connection to their neighbors.

Rabbi Wohl has earned a reputation as an outstanding communicator, whose radio broadcasts touch thousands beyond the walls of Temple Israel and invite Jews and non-Jews alike to reflect on the ethical and moral precepts which guide our lives. He has been especially supportive of important Jewish institutions and organizations such as the Westchester Jewish Conference, B'nai B'rith, the

Zionist Organization of American, the Anti-Defamation League, the Westchester Board of Rabbis, and UJA/Federation.

Rabbi Wohl's commitment to achieving harmony among religious, racial, and ethnic groups has been just as impressive. He helped found the Inter-Religious Council of New Rochelle, serves as Co-President of the Coalition for Mutual Respect, which encourages dialogue between Jews and African-Americans, and enjoys close relationships with community leaders representing a variety of traditions.

Rabbi Amiel Wohl's extraordinary stature and unique personal example will remain sources of inspiration to his congregants and fellow New Rochelleans for many years to come. I am proud to call Rabbi Wohl a friend and pleased to join in wishing him a joyous and rewarding retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF YOM
HASHOAH—THE ANNUAL DAY OF
REMEMBRANCE

HON. E. CLAY SHAW, JR.

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I ask that this House, and indeed, our nation pause on this Yom Hashoah—the Day of Remembrance—to remember the Six Million Jewish Men, Women and Children who perished during the Holocaust in the last century. While there were many positive legacies of the twentieth century, the Holocaust stands out as one of the most negative, shameful legacies—a legacy that must never be forgotten.

I believe it is appropriate to mark this first Yom Hashoah of the Twenty-first Century with appropriate recognition. As one of the statues that stands as a vigilant sentinel outside of the National Archives here in Washington, D.C. is inscribed "What's Past is Prologue." Without our nation's efforts to ensure that this tragedy is remembered by remembering each of its victims, such a tragedy could happen again.

Therefore, as Chairman of the Florida Congressional Delegation, I am proud to join Florida governor Jeb Bush is recognizing today, Tuesday, May 2, 2000, as a "Day of Tolerance" in our State. The promotion of tolerance for Florida citizens of all races, religions and ethnicities on this solemn day will be a small tribute to the memory of those Holocaust victims—victims of the Shoah—that are not here today to enjoy the dawn of this new century.

CHRIS AND JANE BREISETH
HONORED

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I pay tribute to my good friends Chris and Jane Breiseth from my District in Pennsylvania. This week, the Breiseths are being honored with the Distinguished Community Service Award by the

Wilkes-Barre Society of Fellows, Anti-Defamation League (ADL). I am pleased and proud to have been asked to participate in this event, which is honoring such a well-respected and well-liked couple.

Dr. Christopher Breiseth will retire as president of Wilkes University in July 2001, after 17 years, the second-longest presidential term in the institution's history. He has been an extraordinary president of Wilkes University, bringing significant growth to the institution during a challenging period for all private institutions of higher education. He not only established the School of Pharmacy and oversaw the construction of numerous new buildings on the Wilkes campus, but he also maintained a warm, caring atmosphere that encouraged students to thrive.

During his tenure, the university has experienced unprecedented growth in its fundraising, programmatic and campus development initiatives. He led the institution to its 1989 designation as a university by the Pennsylvania Board of Education, a recognition of the breadth of Wilkes's programs and curricula at the undergraduate and graduate level.

Under Chris's leadership, the Wilkes campus has been transformed into a cohesive academic environment, with several buildings constructed or remodeled for student residence, study and recreation. Curricular enhancements include the 1994 creation of the School of Pharmacy, which will graduate its first class of Doctors of Pharmacy on May 20.

Chris's legacy extends to his tireless efforts as a community leader. His awards and involvements are too numerous to list them all. Personally, I developed enormous respect and appreciation for him from countless hours working together on the creation of the Earth Conservancy, a unique organization formed to reclaim thousands of acres of mine-scarred land in the Wyoming Valley. There were many difficult moments during the early days of the Earth Conservancy, and Chris Breiseth put himself at significant personal and professional risk to make our dream a reality. He continues to serve as chairman of the board and has helped to develop the Earth Conservancy into a respected and important asset for the community.

Mr. Speaker, Jane Morehouse Breiseth is a highly educated community activist in her own right. Educated at prestigious Cornell University, she earned a Bachelor's in Comparative Literature, then earned her Master's in Education there in 1967. She is certified to teach Language Arts and Social Studies in several states. Jane has taught in several schools over her career and was a study skill specialist, worked on a quality of life survey project and was assistant to the Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare.

Since coming to Northeastern Pennsylvania, Jane has continued her civic involvement. She has worked with the Family Service Association, Hospice St. John, Luzerne County Women's Conference, and the Northeast Philharmonic Society, to name just a few.

The Breiseths are active members of First Presbyterian Church in Wilkes-Barre and the parents of three fine young women, Abigail, Erika, and Lydia.

Mr. Speaker, when the Breiseths came to Northeastern Pennsylvania, they truly made it

their home, volunteering their time and energy to many worthwhile projects and community activities. The area is enriched by their presence and I am extremely proud and honored to be among their many friends. I sent my sincere best wishes as they accept this prestigious award and I look forward to their continued involvement in the community for years to come.

HELEN STAIRS THEATER

HON. JOHN L. MICA

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 2, 2000

Mr. MICA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the City of Sanford, Florida and its citizens for their successful renovation and restoration of the former Ritz Theater, to be renamed the Helen Stairs Theater, which will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, May 6, 2000. The theater, located in the historic district of Sanford, has celebrated a storied past, and its restoration promises the citizens of Sanford the opportunity to transform an icon of another age into a community facility with a bright new future.

Originally known as the Milane Theater, the Helen Stairs Theater was first constructed in 1923 by the Milane Amusement Company as part of a broad expansion in downtown Sanford. The theater design is indicative of a building style that began appearing in the United States in the 1850s based on European models of opera houses. Motion picture expansion in the early twentieth century led to a boom in the construction of new theaters with over twenty-five thousand theaters located across the United States by 1916. The technical sophistication achieved in theater construction during this period remains unparalleled in the history of American architecture. The Helen Stairs Theater epitomizes the tremendous boom and amazing achievements made during this period and is a visual testimony to the rich history and beauty of Sanford, Florida.

The Milane Amusement Company, led by President Frank Miller and Vice President Edward Lane, built the theater as a profit-enterprise. They had acquired the site from the former Star Theater, and movie house that had been abandoned for a number of years, with the intention of creating a new theater that would be capable of accommodating seven hundred patrons. Construction of the new theater began in November of 1922, and was completed in July of 1923 for a mere \$80,000. Editors of the Sanford Daily Herald proclaimed the building as "a much needed asset in the City Substantial," and claimed that "this city now has a real theater and one of which the city can feel proud." The theater opened on August 2, 1923 to rave reviews.

Over the next few years there were management changes, the sale of the theater to Frank and Stella Evans in 1933, and in 1936, the theater was renamed the Ritz Theater. The Ritz continued to thrive through the years featuring mostly picture shows, but also including some live performances, and became